

MOTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Beseeching the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly along with Governor Ed Rendell to work without delay to pass legislation that will provide for the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and for every public transit entity in the Commonwealth, reliable, dedicated and predictable funding streams that are needed to keep public transit running and growing.

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the primary funding source for public mass transit operations in the state; and

WHEREAS, the two largest sources of state funds that are primarily used to sustain public transit operations are the General Fund Mass Transportation Assistance Budget Line Item and the Public transportation Assistance Fund (PTAF); and

WHEREAS, the increase in both of these funding sources has during the past several years fallen below the rate of inflation, the General Fund Mass Transportation Assistance Budget Line Item even being frozen for six of the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, these continued shortfalls have caused the Port Authority of Allegheny County to initiate a series of employee lay offs, fare hikes and service cuts including service cuts coupled with fare increases on September 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, if it were not for a one time emergency flex of \$10 million in highway construction funds to the Port Authority in FY 03-04, the Port Authority would have been forced to cut deeply into non-peak hours of operation service and increase fares again; and

WHEREAS, a projected deficit in the Port Authority operating budget of \$30 million for FY 04-05 is once again raising the specter of the loss of all weekend and night time service and a fare hike to \$2 base fare; and

WHEREAS, fare hikes, service cuts and the continuous threat of more of these has caused a 7% drop in Port Authority ridership since September of 2002, thus adding further financial strains to Port Authority operations; and

WHEREAS, reductions in service of the magnitude required to balance the Port Authority operating budget for FY 04-05, will have devastating effects on the lives of many people in Allegheny County and the surrounding region of southwest Pennsylvania including access to jobs, training and education, healthcare, grocery stores, shopping and other vital destinations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh, which is served by the Port Authority and which is like other municipalities in Allegheny County under Act 47 distressed status and which is also under the control of a Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority due to severe financial shortfalls will be delayed in any recovery without adequate public mass transportation; and

WHEREAS, riders on public transit in Allegheny County are becoming increasingly angry with the annual ritual of preparing for the worst and hoping for the best; and


WHEREAS, public transit riders are becoming increasingly more frustrated with the lack of progress on the part of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Office of the Governor in resolving the public mass transportation structural deficient problem; and

WHEREAS, legislation that will address this structural deficient problem has been introduced and assigned to the appropriate committee in the General Assembly.

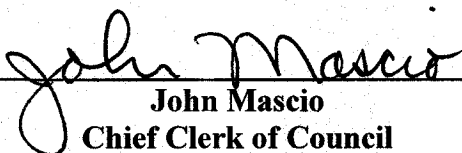
NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, AND IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY that this Council hereby beseeches the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly along with Governor Ed Rendell to work without delay to pass legislation that will provide for the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and for every public transit entity in the Commonwealth, reliable, dedicated and predictable funding streams that are needed to keep public transit running and growing.

SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CHUCK MARTONI

In Council APRIL 20 2004. Read and Approved.



Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest: 

John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Mascio, John

From: Mascio, John
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:56 PM
To: 'Governor Ed Rendell'; Gerald J. Lavalle; J. Barry Stout; Jack Wagner; Jane Orie; Jay Costa; Jim Ferlo; John Pippy; Robert J. Mellow; Robert Jubelirer; Sean Logan; Anthony DeLuca; Dan Frankel; David Levdansky; Don Walko; Frank Dermody; Frank Pistella; Harry Readshaw; Jake Wheatley; Jeffrey Habay; John Maher; John Perzel; Joseph F. Markosek; Joseph Preston, Jr.; Kenneth Ruffing; Marc Gergely; Mark Mustio; Michael Diven; Mike Turzai; Nick Kotik; Paul Costa; Susan Laughlin; Thomas C. Petrone; Tom Stevenson; Victor John Lescovitz
Subject: Bill No. 1532 Motion of Allegheny County Council

At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 20, 2004, Council unanimously approved the attached Motion (Bill No. 1532-04), sponsored by Council Member Chuck Martoni beseeching the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly along with Governor Ed Rendell to work without delay to pass legislation that will provide for the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and for every public transit entity in the Commonwealth, reliable, dedicated and predictable funding streams that are needed to keep public transit running and growing.

Your attention to the motion is requested.

John Mascio
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council



1532-04 Public
Transit Motion....